Omit all enclosed
in [ ]

Bridgewater, Dec. 20th, 1854.

Rev.d & Dear Sir;

[Your line of the 5th inst. arrived in North Guilford after I had left the place, and of course I did not receive it as early as I otherwise should have done. Then the cares and labours attending a removal to a new field, have compelled me to defer an answer until now.]

I am gratified to learn that you think of doing something to perpetuate the memory and the virtues of your hon. and beloved Father. Gladly would I contribute my mite to the undertaking. If I fail of suggesting any thing worthy of notice, it will not be from want of a disposition, certainly not from want of a sense of obligation. If I am, or have been, any thing more than I appeared, or promised to be, when I first met ~~him~~ your Father in my youth, I attribute it more to his instrumentality, than to that of any other man. From my earliest acquaintance, I found him to be a kind friend, a wise counsellor, and an efficient helper. While living near him, I was often in circumstances in which I was constrained to seek his advice and his aid, I do not recollect that I ever sought in vain; and I have yet to learn that any worthy applicant was ever sent empty away.

When agitating the subject in regard to a change in my course of life, I saw many obstacles in my way, that appeared almost insurmountable. After much anxious deliberation, and I trust earnest prayer for direction, I decided to seek a private interview with Mr Robinson, and lay the whole subject before him. I did it with the full purpose, that so far as I could gain his opinion, ~~in regard to~~ it should settle the question in my own mind, and decide my future course. He concluded to take the subject into consideration, and before I saw him again, had decided in favor of my proposed change, & and made some arrangements for the prosecution of my object.

~~Said~~ One of his Deacons (Deac. Dutton), after learning my plan, said: "If Mr Robinson approves your course you may go forward with confidence". I mention this, as showing the opinion of one who knew him better than myself.

During my preparatory studies, I sometimes met with opposition, and discouragement, which to me was peculiarly depressing. I often went to him with my troubles, and always went away with renewed courage, and a lighter heart.

A letter which Mr R. wrote to Dr. Porter of Washington, (afterward of Andover) in my behalf, I believe was a means of securing the friendship, sympathy, and assistance of that great and good man, to an extent which otherwise I might not have enjoyed. Dr P. also had a high regard for Mr Robinson. He once remarked, to this effect, "in reply to something I had said about him. "I also have some acquaintance with Mr R. having sat for a time under his ministry, and I regard him as possessing native powers of mind superior to those of any other minister in Connecticut." and he added something similar to this; "Had the energies of his powerful mind been exclusively devoted to the ministry, he would have taken a higher stand than any other."

You are aware that he was envied by some, and complained of by others, for having too much of this world's goods to occupy his time and thought; but it has not yet been proven, that with all his worldly care and prosperity, he did not spend more time in his study, than many ministers who have little else to do.

For two successive winters, I boarded a little north of his dwelling, in sight of his study window, and in a family famed for early rising. We were often up by four o'clock, and usually had our breakfast before daylight. I do not recollect ever rising so early as not to see a light, from that study window. I think he was remarkably economical of time, systematic in all his movements, and punctual in all his engagements. These traits he enjoined upon others with whom he had intercourse and these were among the means of his prosperity. The influence he thus exerted, and the example he exhibited, it was admitted by many, contributed largely to the outward and constantly increasing prosperity of his people. When he settled among them, I was told by some of the aged men, that they were proverbial for their poverty. "Poor as Panthorn" (the earliest ~~ancient~~ name of the place) was an expression used to denote abject poverty. It was even doubted whether they could sustain a minister. To help supply the deficiency Mr K. was induced to take charge of a little farm. The necessity of this measure, and the benefit derived from it, we suppose ultimately led him where at the time he did not intend, or expect to go. [In proof of this, we have the following fact. Mr K. called on a blacksmith, (Capt Peck), to procure irons for an ox yoke. He wished them much smaller than the ordinary size. The blacksmith remonstrated, assuring him that irons of the ~~ordinary~~ usual size, would cost little or nothing more, and would be much more durable. No: said Mr K. the small irons will be amply sufficient for all the farming I shall do. He little expected that he should so soon have more yokes than most of his neighbors.]

In all Mr K's intercourse with his fellow men, there was a gentlemanly dignity, and propriety of demeanor, which could rarely fail to secure the respect and veneration, of all who saw him. Although he was ever affable, pleasant, and instructive in his conversation, I think I never saw the man for whom I was constrained to feel such profound reverence as I ever felt for him, ~~presence~~.

He was a son of consolation to the afflicted, Having been himself a "man of sorrows" he knew how to bear a part in the woes of others. I have witnessed and experienced the outgushings of his sympathy in times of deep affliction.

I was often much interested in his public performances. His prayers were original, theological, instructive and devotional,—abounding in thanksgiving. In preaching, there was a commanding dignity in his manner, a native eloquence, peculiarly his own.

He appeared to have a more familiar acquaintance with the Bible, than any other preacher I have known. I think he studied it in its original language, more than most men of his age. He once said to me, "I let no day pass without reading one or more chapters from the Greek Testament" he ordinarily delivered his sermon with the bible in his hand, and in the proof and illustration of important truth, he read from it abundantly, turning from one passage to another, with a readiness and rapidity that produced no interruption in the progress of ~~the~~ his discourse. In his preaching, he dwelt much upon the distinguishing doctrines of the gospel, particularly the character and government of G. On these points, he might be regarded by some as rigidly orthodox. He once remarked that when he commenced reading Dr. Beecher's sermon on the Divine government, he was much gratified in believing we had one man in Litchfield County, who was orthodox on that subject; but was disappointed as he approached the close, to find that the D. came so near giving up the government of God into the hands of the sinner"

In dwelling so much upon the doctrines, he felt that he was following Apostolic example. He once remarked "It was their practice, to establish important truths, and enforce duty, by inference or implication."

~~Ath~~ He was characterized by remarkable clearness of mind, a capability of readily grasping a great subject, and looking through it in all its parts. Blessed with a retentive memory, and ~~given to~~ reading much, he possessed an extensive knowledge of men and things.

[Perhaps Dr. Sir, I have already said more than you desired, and yet but very little which can be of use in your contemplated biography. I have hastily put down such thoughts as occurred. If you can find anything to aid you, I shall be gratified. If you cannot, I shall not complain. I have said some things which I am aware are better known to yourself, than to me, yet it occurred that you might prefer to have them said by another, though not said as well. I shall hope to find access to your biography when it is completed. If any questions occur in relation to further information that I can ~~[illegible]~~ give, I shall be happy to do so.] If I have not said enough to evince my high regard for the man, allow me to add, that the name of my only son is William Robinson.]

[With sentiments of high regard, I remain yours respectfully,]

[H. Harrison.]

I.
Rev. F. Harrison
Dec. 20. 1854.

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